

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's comments detailed in the Office Action dated 21 June 2004, which have greatly assisted Applicant in responding. Claims 1-5, 8-25, 31, and 33-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 13, 19, 20, 31 have been amended. Claim 35 has been cancelled. No new matter has been entered. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application as amended.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

- 10 Claims 2, 4, 5, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2, 4, 5, and 19 have been amended for further clarification and to address the Examiner's rejections. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

- 20 Claims 17, 18 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees and respectfully directs the Examiner to pages 3-4 of the specification and to pages 9-10 of the specification, which clarify the limitation "registering said first device for activation in response to receipt of one of multiple types of communications." Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 19, and 31 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,630,883 to Amin (hereinafter "Amin"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Independent Claims 1, and 19, as amended, recite, *inter alia*, "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user." Independent Claim 31, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, that "said notification server initiates a second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges said first communication and wherein, in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is deactivated."

Amin fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claims 1, and 19, as amended. Furthermore, Amin fails to teach or suggest that "said notification server initiates a second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges said first communication and wherein, in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is deactivated," as claimed in independent Claim 31, as amended.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 19, 31, as amended, are distinguishable over Amin and should be allowed. Claims 5, 8, 9, dependent directly or indirectly from Claim 1, are also distinguishable over Amin and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claims 13, 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,574,470 to Chow (hereinafter "Chow"). Applicant respectfully submits that Chow fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

5 Independent Claim 13, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user." Independent Claim 20, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user."

10 Chow fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in Independent Claim 13, as amended. Chow further fails to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 20, as amended.

15 Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 13 and 20, as amended, are distinguishable over Chow and should be allowed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claim rejections Under 35 USC 103

20 Claims 2, 3, 12-15, 17, 20, 21, 24, and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,305 to Neustein (hereinafter "Neustein"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

As discussed in detail above, Independent Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user." Independent Claim 12, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, "automatically initiating a second electronic signal to said first message-waiting device,
5 wherein said second electronic signal is configured to deactivate said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user." Independent Claim 13, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user." Independent Claim 20, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, that "said indicator is configured to deactivate
10 In response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user."

Amin fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended. Amin further fails to teach or suggest "automatically initiating a second
15 electronic signal to said first message-waiting device, wherein said second electronic signal is configured to deactivate said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 12, as amended. Amin further fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim
20 13, as amended. Amin also fails to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 20, as amended.

Neustein does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin. Neustein fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said
25 communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended. Neustein further fails to teach or suggest "automatically initiating a second electronic signal to said first message-waiting device, wherein said second electronic signal is configured to deactivate said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said

communication by said user," as claimed in Independent Claim 12, as amended. Neustein further fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 13, as amended. Finally, Neustein fails to teach or suggest that

5 "said Indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in Independent Claim 20, as amended.

Amin further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Neustein and Neustein further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin. Furthermore, such a combination

10 would still fail to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended; would further fail to teach or suggest "automatically initiating a second electronic signal to said first message-waiting device, wherein said second electronic signal is configured to deactivate said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt

15 of said communication by said user," as claimed in Independent Claim 12, as amended; would further fail to teach or suggest "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 13, as amended; and, finally, would fail to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of

20 said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 20, as amended.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submit that Claims 1, 12, 13, and 20, as amended, are distinguishable over Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claims 2, 3, 14, 15, 17, 21, and 24, dependent directly or indirectly from Claims 1, 12, 13, and 20, respectively, are also distinguishable over Amin and Neustein,

25 taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claims 4, 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,363,431 to Schull et al. (hereinafter "Schull"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Schull, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claims 4, 16 depend directly from allowable Independent Claims 1 and 13, respectively. Amin fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended. Amin further fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 13, as amended.

Schull does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin. Schull fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended. Schull further fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 13, as amended.

Amin further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Schull and Schull further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin. Furthermore, such a combination would still fail to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended; and "deactivating said alarm upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 13, as amended.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 13, as amended, are distinguishable over Amin and Schull, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claims 4, 16, dependent directly from Claims 1, and 13, respectively, are also distinguishable over

Amin and Schull, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

- 5 Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,226 to Houggy et al. (hereinafter "Houggy"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Houggy, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

- 10 Claim 10 depends directly from allowable independent Claim 1. Amin fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended.

Houggy does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin. Houggy fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended.

- 15 Amin further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Houggy and Houggy further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin. Furthermore, such a combination would still fail to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended.

- 20 Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin and Houggy, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 10, dependent directly from Claim 1, is also distinguishable over Amin and Houggy, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections
25 and allowance of the claims.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and In view of U.S. Patent No. 6,317,485 to Homan et al. (hereinafter "Homan"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Homan, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach,
5 suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 11 depends directly from allowable independent Claim 1. Amin fails to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended.

Homan does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin. Homan fails to teach or
10 suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended.

Amin further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Homan and Homan further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin. Furthermore, such a combination would still fail to teach or suggest "deactivating said indicator upon acknowledgement of
15 said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 1, as amended.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin and Homan, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 11, dependent directly from Claim 1, is also distinguishable over Amin and Homan, taken
20 alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claims 22, 23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin, in view of Neustein, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,588,038 to Snyder (hereinafter "Snyder"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin, Neustein, and Snyder, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present
5 Invention as claimed.

Claims 22, 23 depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent Claim 20. Amin and Neustein fail to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 20, as amended.

10 Snyder does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin and Neustein. Snyder fails to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 20, as amended.

Amin and Neustein further fail to teach or suggest a combination with Snyder and
15 Snyder further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin and Neustein. Furthermore, such a combination would still fail to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 20, as amended.

20 Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Snyder, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claims 22, 23, dependent from Claim 20 are also distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Snyder, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal
25 of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin, in view of Neustein, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,115 to Swistock (hereinafter "Swistock"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin, Neustein, and Swistock, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 25 depends directly or indirectly from allowable Independent Claim 20. Amin and Neustein fail to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in independent Claim 20, as amended.

Swistock does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin and Neustein. Swistock fails to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in Independent Claim 20, as amended.

Amin and Neustein further fail to teach or suggest a combination with Swistock and Swistock further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin and Neustein. Furthermore, such a combination would still fail to teach or suggest that "said indicator is configured to deactivate in response to a second signal upon acknowledgement of said receipt of said communication by said user," as claimed in Independent Claim 20, as amended.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Swistock, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 25, dependent from Claim 20, is also distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Swistock, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,858 to Sundhar (hereinafter "Sundhar"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Sundhar, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

5 Claim 33 depends directly from allowable independent Claim 31. Amin fails to teach or suggest that "said notification server initiates a second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges said first communication and wherein, in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is deactivated," as claimed in independent Claim 31, as amended.

10 Sundhar does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin. Sundhar fails to teach or suggest that "said notification server initiates a second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges said first communication and wherein, in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is deactivated," as claimed in independent Claim 31, as amended.

15 Amin further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Sundhar and Sundhar further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin. Furthermore, such a combination would still fail to teach or suggest that "said notification server initiates a second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges said first communication and wherein, in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is
20 deactivated," as claimed in independent Claim 31, as amended.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 31, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin and Sundhar, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 33, dependent directly from Claim 31, is also distinguishable over Amin and Sundhar, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as
25 stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claim 34 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,559 to Amin (hereinafter "Amin559"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Amin559, taken alone or in combination, fail to
5 teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 34 depends directly from allowable independent Claim 31. Amin fails to teach or suggest that "said notification server initiates a second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges said first communication and wherein, in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is deactivated," as claimed in
10 independent Claim 31, as amended.

Amin559 does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin. Amin559 fails to teach or suggest that "said notification server initiates a second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges said first communication and wherein, in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is deactivated," as claimed in
15 independent Claim 31, as amended.

Amin further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin559 and Amin559 further fails to teach or suggest a combination with Amin. Furthermore, such a combination would still fail to teach or suggest that "said notification server initiates a second wireless signal toward said first device after the first user acknowledges said first
20 communication and wherein, in response to said second wireless signal, said alarm is deactivated," as claimed in independent Claim 31, as amended.

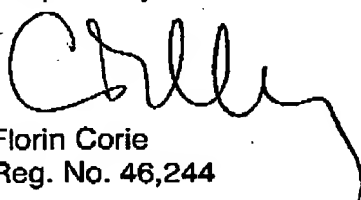
Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 31, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin and Amin559, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 34, dependent directly from Claim 31, is also distinguishable over Amin and Amin559, taken
25 alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as

stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are patentable and are now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is
5 respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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